Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 NEA-09 /077 W

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R 111139Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9524

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 0599

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, XF, SU

SUBJECT: SUDANESE STAND ON MIDEAST

REF: KHARTOUM 0585

- 1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FONOFF USEC MIRGHANI THIS MORNING, AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO DAUDI'S RECENT VISIT HERE AND SAID HE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY PRESS REPORTING OF NIMEIRI'S COMMENTS (REFTEL). MIRGHANI, WHO HAD TO BE REMINDED WHO DAUDI WAS, SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT AT MEETING AND WAS UNAWARE CONTEXT IN WHICH NIMEIRI HAD BEEN SPEAKING. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT SETTLED GOS POLICY WITH RESPECT MIDEAST ISSUE WAS THAT MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN BY STATES FAR REMOVED FROM SCENE OF ACTION. I SAID THIS HAD BEEN MY UNDERSTANDING WHICH WAS WHY I WAS PUZZLED BY NIMEIRI'S REPORTED VIEWS. MIRGHANI AGREED SOME ARAB COUNTRIES MIGHT NOT FULLY ENDORSE SADAT'S CURRENT POLICY BUT OPINED THAT THIS DID NOT WORRY SADAT.
- 2. I TOLD MIRGHANI THAT RECENT FATAH RAID ON TEL AVIV COULD HARDLY HAVE OCCURRED AT MORE INOPPORTUNE TIME. IT WAS DIFFICULT SEE HOW ISRAELIS COALD BE ENCOURAGED TO TALK WITH PLO WHEN PLO'S RIGHT ARM WAS TAKING SUCH PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS. MIRGHANI SAID HE FULLY CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERSTOOD AND INDICATED THAT SUCH ACTIONS BY ARAB

EXTREMISTS COULD ONLY BE DEPLORED. HE WAS PLEASED WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT SECRETARY HAD NEVER SEEN ISRAELIS MORE SERIOUS OR MORE CONCERNED THAN IN THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS (IPS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT IN MARCH 11 WIRELESS FILE).

3. COMMENT: MIRGHANI'S REITERATION OF BASIC SUDANESE POLICY IS NOT ENTIRELY REASSURING. IT STILL SEEMS TO US THAT NIMEIRI MAY BE TRYING CARRY WATER ON BOTH SHOULDERS. FORTUNATELY THIS ATTITUDE ON PART SUDAN PROBABLY MAKES NO DIFFERENCE IN EGYPTIAN CALCULATIONS. BREWER

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